BAKEMONOGATARI

22

OH!GREAT

Original Story:

NISIOISIN

Original Character
Design: VOFAN

BAKEMONOGATARI

OH!GREAT

22

ORIGINAL STORY:

NISIOISIN

ORIGINAL CHARACTER
DESIGN: VOFAN

MAIN CHARACTERS

Hitagi Senjogahara

A girl who encountered a crab.

Koyomi Araragi

A boy who was attacked by a vampire.

Suruga Kanbaru

A girl who made a wish to a monkey.

Mayoi Hachikuji

A girl who was led astray by a snail.

Tsubasa Hanekawa

A girl who was charmed by a cat.

Nadeko Sengoku

A girl who was entwined by a snake.

Karen Araragi

Tsukihi Araragi

Koyomi's little sisters.
Karen is the older of the two,
and Tsukihi is the younger.

The Fire Sisters

Mèmè Oshino

A self-described "expert on aberrations."

Shinobu Oshino

A husk of a vampire.

That's about ...

...all I can give to you.

That's about ...

...all I have.

That's it.

Every-thing.

...love you, Ara-ragi.

I...

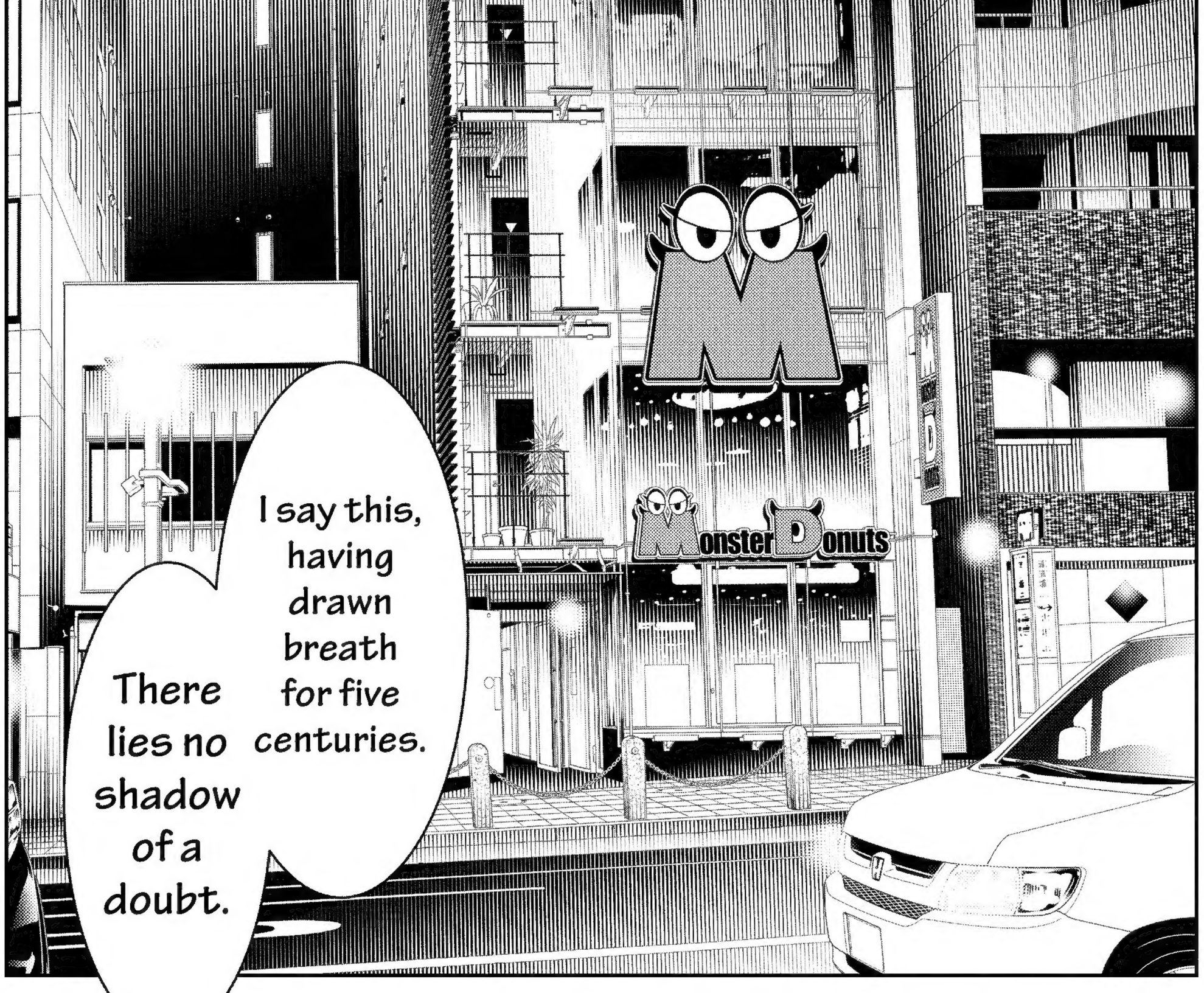
THE STORY SO FAR

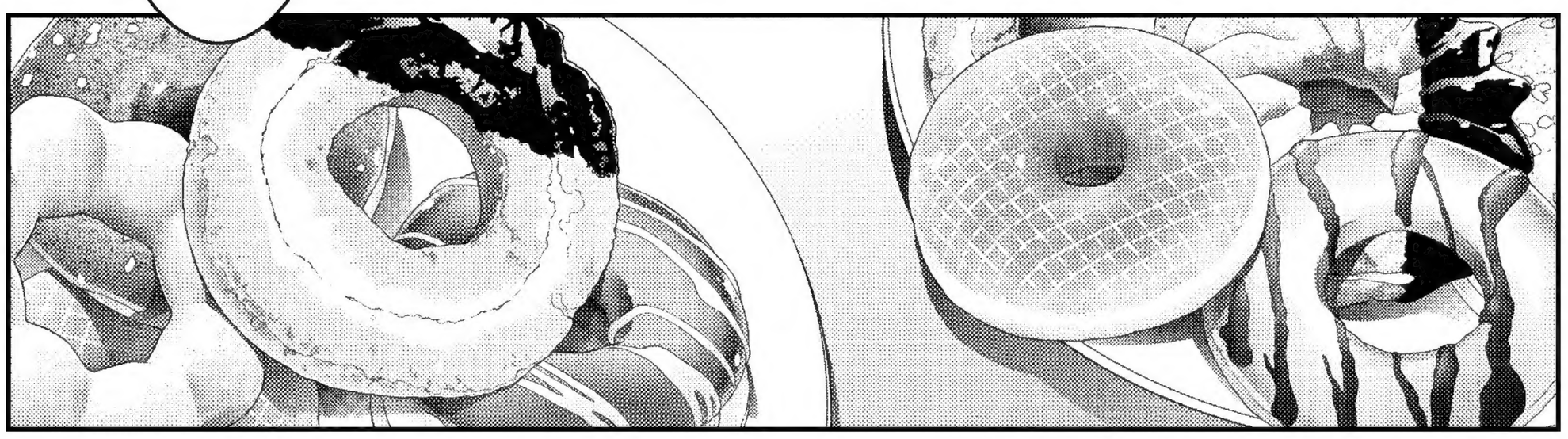
Hanekawa is finally able to face Koyomi as her true self and express her feelings in her own words. While the result isn't what she'd hoped for, the act marks her first step onto the starting line of a new journey. Meanwhile, Koyomi fulfills his long-awaited promise with Hitagi, and as she tries to convey her feelings, offering him her everything under the vast, star-filled sky, it seems that it's now Koyomi's turn to be saved...

Koyomi Almanac

Chapter Manga

BOOK DESIGN VEIA


I say this, having drawn breath for five centuries.
There lies no shadow of a doubt.
Monster Donuts



はわあ…
FWAAAH
THESE RINGS.
THEY ARE PURE BLISS! NO INVENTION IN THE ANNALS OF MANKIND HATH BEEN A BETTER EMBODIMENT OF JOY...

Well, that aside ...

Feel like eating with us yet, my senior Hanekawa?

LEAVE HER BE.

COME NOW! DRINK!

PARTAKE WITH ME INSTEAD!

Donuts ¥100

Sorry ...

...but drinking donuts is a feat beyond my abilities.

You seemed to be in a bit of pain earlier.

Don't you get weaker the farther you get from my senior Araragi's shadow?

What about you? Was it okay for you to not go with him, too?

Too nice... To the point of irresponsibility...

The thing about Araragi...is that he's so nice, you know?

MUTTER

MUTTER

She is now like a rambling sot, lost in her words.

Pay her no mind.

Hm?

These rings allow me to remain nourished.

Fool.

How could I ever be so boorish?

Heh.

Hmph.

More impor-tantly— Cat.

He's just so irresponsi-ble...when it comes to his own self...

MUTTER

...he ought to really think about saving himself...

MUTTER

MUTTER

MUTTER

MUTTER

MUTTER

MUTTER

Instead of always wor-rying about others ...

I think ... it's fine now ...

MUTTER

MUTTER

Oh, right! Yeah!

Wast thou sure to have him fondle thy bosom?

TWITCH

Hm?

Hmm, okay.

...is that despite his looks, he's pretty...

Well, about that. The truth about Araragi ...

Could you give more detail there?

Love is thicker than alcohol, I suppose.

See?

To tell you the truth ...

...I'm afraid I've become a stupid woman.

...So you're a beautiful maiden in either case, huh...

...I'm a lovestruck, beautiful maiden who's always thinking about some guy.

But now ...

I was supposed to be a tragic, beautiful maiden struck by an illness of unknown origin.

That's how taken I am with you.

then I'm glad it happened that way.

But if it was my unhappiness that caught your attention,

I haven't led what you could call the happiest life up until now.

But—

I'm scared.

...with that filthy man.

That's what terrifies me.

But the thought of associating you—Araragi—even in the slightest chance...

Not of the act itself ...

Right now...

...the thought of hating you is just so—

scary.

So when it comes to my body...I want you to wait, just a little...

...

Yes. Until next week or so.

THAT SOON?!

Please satisfy yourself with Kanbaru's body until then.

DID YOU REALLY JUST SAY THAT TO ME?!

Jokes aside,

I promise that one day...I'll find a way to make it work.

So...

...as far as what I can give you... these stars ...

...are it.

...When I was younger, I used to come here often.

...

Yeah.

I felt like...

...this was okay for now.

This is it.

My trea-sure.

I do.

Hey, Araragi?

Do you...

...

...love me?

There's nothing about you I don't love.

Every-thing.

...and look up at the stars.

We could lie on our backs ...

What about me do you love?

...sort of couple.

As that...

We were fine.

...this starry sky became my treasure, too.

And so...

...You know, that filth... He was only after my body.

Huh?

—That's what I'm saying. ...And so, Araragi...

That vile man ...

...never even tried to steal my lips. He showed no interest at all in them.

I'M KISS-ING YOU.

Scary.

You're scaring me, Miss Hitagi.

...

...

...think to... about ...

...a kiss...

What would you...

Could I... bother you for a kiss?

Could I...

No.

That's... not it.

Let's kiss, Araragi.

And so.

June 13...

...became a memorable day.

For us.

BAKEMONOGATARI

Koyomi Almanac

BAKEMONOGATARI

KARAOKE
THE SWAN'S SING
SING
24
DR
DA

The epilogue.

Or maybe ...

...Tsubasa Hanekawa's punch line.

KARAOKE
The Swan's Sing
All-You-Can-Sing
24 hours

All-You-Can-Sing
24hours
Drink bar

This time around,

14:21

Hanekawa

Greetings and salutation
Now that we have entere

it wasn't Tsukihi and Karen who roused me from bed, but rather a very, very long text from Hanekawa saying, "Let's go on a date ♡" (my interpretation).

She sang her heart out.

BRAVO! NO! BRAVISSIMO!

BRAVISSIMO!

パチ CLAP

WHITE BELUGA

Huh? You haven't put anything in yet?

Can I keep singing, then?

WAIT, HOLD ON! CHILL OUT FOR A BIT!

ヒトカラレジェンド

BA-BA-BWING

sugar sweet nightmare

Vibrato Bonus
+3,882 points

199,666

84,673 points

Pitch

Stability

Vibrato & long notes

Expression

Rhythm

You did it!

Analysis

A perfect performance.
Incredible! Bravo!

Next to go to next screen

Stop performance to end

Perfect 100s for eight songs in a row

The last time I sang in front of anyone was during music class in grade school. I don't think I'm that good.

How often do you have to do this to train your throat to this level...?

I have to admit... I never imagined you as someone who sings karaoke.

You're so good it could kill me... No, more like bring me back to life...

WHY CAN'T YOU EVEN DO KARAOKE NORMALLY ?!

YOU KNOW YOU'D GET MORE GENUINE PRAISE IF YOU SAID YOU'D PRACTICED EXTRA HARD FOR SIX HOURS JUST FOR TODAY, RIGHT?!

HUH ?!

Huh ?

It's my first time, though.

Instead of the students passing out from the principal's overly long speech about the school rules—it was Hanekawa's massive list of commendations that did people in. She was still the kind of perfect superhuman who had these kinds of anecdotes following her around.

Even with the uproar involving the "cat" settled, at the end of the day, Tsubasa Hanekawa was still Tsubasa Hanekawa.

AAA

THWUMP

I guess that contradiction was a problem.

...Not when people don't see me as normal.

But I guess that in itself isn't normal ...

For the longest time, I always just wanted to be normal.

Well, you know ...

And today is my first attempt at that.

I thought I'd live more honestly without bottling up too much stress or resentment.

And so... I figured I'd start being myself more.

...So that's how it is.

100.000
You did it!
Pitch
Rhythm
Expression
Voice & Inflection
Rich tone! Bravo!
Okay, got it.
Just let me know if you ever wanna blow off some steam. I'll tag along whenever.
REAL-LY?
IN THAT CASE— CAN I GO AHEAD AND ASK FOR SOME-THING NOW ?!
Of course you can.
When have I ever turned down a request from you, Haneka—

Room Rate

So to help me get over all that...

...I had my heart broken just the other day.

This doesn't have anything to do with you, but...

Hmmm...?

Hm?

...

It seems this is what we're really here for today.

...would you chop off these braids for me?

...and sing while reading the lyrics reflected in your eyes.

That, or I'll pick a song I've never heard at random, take off everything, even my underwear, for reasons unknown,

Which'll it be?

...I can't believe it.

This might be the one and only time in your life that you get to play with a girl's hair, right?

Give me a crew cut, give me a Mohawk, I won't complain.

You can do whatever you want.

Ara-ragi.

So—

SNIP

Once the second trimester starts—and a little time has passed,

I'm withdrawing from school.

I mentioned it to you before, remember?

I said I'll go around and see the world once I graduate.

A quick trip around the world.

Well, this will be some light preparation for that.

If it were the old Hanekawa...

If it were the old me...

No.

Oh.

That girl—is in a *perilous* spot.

I can't imagine her surviving past twenty...

...I think I would have stopped her by force.

Even if Hanekawa hated me from the bottom of her heart for it...

No matter what it meant.

"The winged mediator."

"An atrocious international terrorist who erases the borders between war-torn regions."

"The guiding holy mother."

"The modern Joan of Arc."

All while she becomes a historical figure so great that they'll say, "A hundred years from now, the world will speak of a time 'Before Hanekawa' and a time 'After Hanekawa.'"

In just a few short years, Hanekawa will receive these nicknames and more.

SNIP

チョキ…

SNIP

チョキ…

SNIP

チョキ…

And so...

...my first love ...

...would at last fly some-where beyond my reach...

...likely leaving behind ...

...a regret I'd live with for the rest of my life.

I'll be on my way.

Now get out there.

KLINK

Gotta love it.

Looks like your last little bit of harassment is over.

The contract will be until I'm capable of protecting myself.

So as little as six months, or as long as a century.

A centu...

...And my compen-sation?

Then again, I can't help but see this as you harassing me now.

Asking someone who once nearly slaughtered you to keep you safe on a journey? Seems ridiculous...

Erm... Th-That haircut suits you well... It's very nice...

Miss Senjoga-hara...

...created a place for Araragi to return to.

ugh!

Because these... belong to Araragi.

are the only things that are off-limits. Anything and everything else you want is yours.

My breasts —

Because I know the world is filled...

...with people who Araragi ought to save.

That's why I...

...want to create a place where Araragi can go someday, just one step ahead of him.

FOR A MOMENT, I DIDN'T RECOG-NIZE YOU AT ALL!

I KNEW IT! IT'S YOU, MISS HANE-KAWA!

YOU'RE SO ADOR-ABLE!!

WHAT AN INCRED-IBLE MAKE-OVER!

Could that be...

Hm ?

In other words, this is my punch line.

And instead of calling this an epilogue ...

...why don't we consider everything before this to be the prologue.

...

Miss Hane-kawa?

HMM?

MISS HANE-KAWA?!

HEEEEEY!

HMMM?

MISS HA-NE-KA-WA?!

She can't ...

...see me?

Because the fact that you can see an aberration like myself—says a lot about your *situation*.

You're still lost, huh?

I do hope you find your way home soon.

OOH!
♡

My tale ... ... begins today.

GROOOAR

SUMIKOU supermarket

入口

P 24H

Dedi-cation

of the Holy Angel Snail

Mayoi, Great Incar-nation

BAKEMONOGATARI

I'm no dream, nor am I a hallucination.

You can seek help from whatever wall you want. But it's not going to cause me to disappear.

Mister Are you- sorry.

...Mayoi Hachi-kuji's punch line.

The epi-logue.

Or maybe ...

...no un-doing this...

There's ...

What am I gonna do?

No.

You did it on purpose.

I'm sorry.

Slip of the tongue.

...my name is Araragi.

You know what, Hachikuji? That might be the most appropriate name possible for me right now, but...

Sick of the slip of the tongue.

I'm in so much danger right now that it surpasses even what happened to me during spring break.

Well, of course there isn't.

This is a familiar back-and-forth, but there's no ambition behind it this time...

I'd imagine you would be, considering all the times your tongue has slipped...

MUTTER

MUTTER

MUTTER

I didn't do anything wrong... It's Hachi-kuji's fault for being too cute...

That's right... I'm the victim here, if anything.

MUTTER

MUTTER

Hachi-kuji.

A fifth grader. Is in my room.

It happened— about an hour ago.

Indeed.

While there may not be anything I can do about you being a hopeless piece of trash, Mister Araragi...

Have a little re-spect, Hachi-kuji.

Don't be ridicu-lous ...

Language can't be that simple.

...you know, pretty much anything can come out sounding positive if you just slap "courage" on it.

If you can convince me, I'll do a handstand right here and apologize...

Go ahead ...

But it's true. Want me to prove it?

Devil

YOU'RE GONNA EXPOSE YOUR KIDDY UNDERWEAR TO THE PUBLIC GAZE UNTIL I SAY YOU'RE DONE!

BUT IF YOU CAN'T CONVINCE ME, THEN YOU'RE THE ONE WHO HAS TO DO A HANDSTAND...

...but she nearly makes it sound like a pious lie.

All you're doing in this situation is lying to your lover, like a piece of trash would do...

...Not bad.

Mgh...

Let's start off small. "The courage to lie to your lover."

TWITCH

Without even trying to make the point...

Amazing!

In the end, you're merely betraying your friends, like a piece of trash would do...

But she nearly makes it sound like you're trying to protect them!

What ?!

"The courage to betray one's friends."

Without even trying to make the point!!

You're simply being a piece of trash groper, committing the lowest of crimes...

...but she makes it sound like you're being driven by some higher purpose for whose sake you have no choice but to stand falsely accused...

Sh-
Shit...!

Gnnngh!

Without even trying to make the point!!

"The courage to grope."

BOOM

SKREAK

"The courage to be indolent."

You're simply wasting time and doing nothing, like a piece of trash, but she makes it sound like you're a solitary warrior, abasing yourself and living in poverty for some great cause...

I-
Incredible
...!

Without even trying to make the point!!

HUH?! I'M NOT THAT COOL, YOU KNOW!

You're like an immortal bird to a flame. That's what they call people like you, Mister Araragi.

Heh heh... You didn't even put up a fight.

Hraagh

BWIING

You can stop now.

I'll let you off with this.

...

Well, uh...

How do I put it...

Now I'm the one feeling embarrassed for some reason!

Please stop doing that hand-stand.

Really, you can stop.

WUH ?!

I realized that I'm still able to see your panties anyway, even without forcing you to do a handstand.

YOU'RE A PER-VERT !

This wager ...

...wasn't one I could lose from the start.

AHAHA! YOUR HUBRIS WAS YOUR DOWN-FALL, HACHI-KUJI!

I STOLE YOUR SECRET TECHNIQUE AND PERFECTED IT!

THE COURAGE TO BE BRANDED A PERVERT!

Wh-What have I done?

I may have unleashed a monster upon the world...

THROB

I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT THAT WAS SO COOL THAT I'M TEMPTED TO LET YOU LOOK AT MY PANTIES ALL YOU WANT!

WOW, SO COOL!

I WOULD NEVER HAVE IMAGINED YOU'D BE WEARING SEE-THROUGH BLACK PANTIES!

THAT SAID, I MISJUDGED YOU, YOU TRAITOR!

PLEASE STOP DAMAGING MY IMAGE WITH SUCH A HATEFUL ASSAULT!

LOOK CLOSER! I KNOW WHAT'S DEMANDED OF ME AND STUCK TO UNDERWEAR WITH BUNNIES ON IT!

EXCUSE ME?! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ?!

BAM

LIKE THIS ?

LIKE THIS! SEE?!

NO!

L-LIKE THIS?!

YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO COME CLOSER!

I DON'T SEE ANY BUNNIES!

And that's about where...

...my memories stop.

I'm a criminal now...

I've committed a kidnapping...

MAYOI DASH

まよいタッシュッ

...that before I knew it, I'd brought Hachikuji home with me.

I ended up getting so excited...

I'm going to change clothes, so could you please look away?

FSST

Mister Large-and-bloody?

...when this happened with Nadeko Sengoku, it was...

...What is this feeling...? Looking back on it...

Huh?

Er... That name's a little too cool for me. To the point where I'd feel like I need to change it...

...Times have changed, you know...

You won't be charged with a crime just because you brought a ghost who's been dead for over a decade into your house.

It's all right.

NNN

Bring her back home with you... and she's no "lost cow" anymore.

That snail aberration is all about getting lost on the street.

Well, sure.

...

I bet... ...Oshino would say something like that.

For more than a decade. For all that time.

For all this time... she just kept walking.

Lost cow

It's been a long time since you've been on a bed.

Of course you're going to be tired ...

...FOR THIS AND OTHER REASONS, I, MAYOI HACHIKUJI, HAVE BEEN FIRED FROM THE ROLE OF LOST COW ABERRATION.

TAAH-DAAAH!

TO OFFER A COMMENT THAT'S A BIT META IN NATURE...

BUT NOW, IF YOU CAN BELIEVE IT...

I'M AMAZING!

...THEY'LL BE TAKING A BIG CHANCE ON ME AS THE GUARDIAN DEITY OF NAOETSU TOWN!

...AFTER KICKING UP A WHOLE DEAL OF FUSS...

Take your time and sleep well.

If you ever feel like sleeping in a bed, just come by.

It's yours any time you want it. That's the least I could offer you...

...But there is just one thing that worries me.

Miss Hanekawa has already embarked ...

...upon her new path.

I'm delighted that it seems she can no longer see me ...

But Mister Araragi ...

...to be lost, do you not?

...you continue...

You are a kind person, after all.

Though I think I mostly understand why.

No ...

Wait a second ...!

she's an aberration, too...

If Hachikuji's asleep, that means I can do anything I want to her, doesn't it...?

...

...

So kin ...

...

I...feel like...

...he's incredibly lost— as a human being.

What kind of excuse can I make... for touching Hachikuji ?

No... Wait... What's my excuse ...?

MUTTER

No, but... but a chance like this...

MUTTER

SWAAAY

...

...

...Ngh!

SWAY

?!!

SKRRRR

The only one who shall sleep ...

BWOOF

Vam-pire Punch !!

...is thee, fool!

KRAK POP PWOK

GSSHKT

ギュルルルル

TWIIIRL

バキャア

BA-KRAAASH

...this is my punch line.

And so...

Why must I be tasked to play thy moral guide?!

As if I have an entire century or so to figure it out.

I'll take my time to solve this as a future god.

I'M A SNAIL! THERE'S A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HAVING A SHELL AND NOT, YOU KNOW!

SL-SLUG ...?!

Hmph. How dare thou don the shell of lolitahood to excuse thy deeds.

In truth, thou art 21, no?

Hey, slug. I must speak to thee as a fellow legal lolita.

...

UGH

BAKEMONOGATARI

Shi-
nobu.

...I guess Oshino gave you that name, didn't he?

Come to think of it...

The epilogue.

Or maybe ...

...Shi-
nobu
Oshino's
punch
line.

Aye.

Following my defeat—to confine one as mighty and grand as I, for I menace humanity's very existence.

That boy in the garb of Hawai'i executed the task with gallant spirit.

Hmm.
What should it be,
what should it be?

Did he pick your name while drinking or something?

That's basically wordplay...

I believe he also considered another appellation—Oshino Oshino.

I'VE DEVELOPED A SURPRISING FONDNESS FOR THIS NAME, SO I SHALL BITE THY FEMORAL ARTERY IF THOU DARE TO INSULT IT, MY MASTER.

'TIS THE CULMINATION OF A SAGACIOUS EXPERT TAXING HIS EXTENSIVE WIT FOR THE WORLD'S SALVATION!

Now then ...

So you'll pretend to just go for my leg when you're seriously after my life?

THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUMP
THUMP
SOME-THING TERRIBLE HAS HAP-PENED!
'TIS OF GRAVE CON-CERN!
AWAKEN, MY MASTER!
It happened this morning.
...
GAZE UPON THIS MOST CLANDESTINE KNOWLEDGE I'VE SECURED THROUGH SPECIAL MEANS!!
LOOK!
Monster Donuts
EVERYTHING
¥100 SALE
POINT
Use and earn M Points
Naosato Sta
Monster Donuts
Hours of operation may differ at some stores. Please see our website for details
Monster Donuts Here!

HEY ...!

WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS! STOP!

WH...

むんず GRAB

We must make haste, lest they sell ou...

...NGH!

Ah!

ZZZ

This will not be...

Do not slight my virtue, fiend.

HOOH

I have already settled on a companion today, and their title is Lord Donut!

BHOOH

HOOH

CHEEEP

As one who hath lived in perpetuity,

I profess that an age such as this one, replete with names most unique, is a true rarity.

It's already past noon,

but I do owe Shinobu a great deal for all her help with the Hanekawa situation.

Shirt: Tor-Shark-Do

—Huh. I see.

CHEERP

CHEERP

In fact, binding one's existence using a name...

...surely is not an act limited to aberrations alone.

I'll be Koyomi Hachikuji as of next year.

As far as this cursed last name goes, I'll be changing it as soon as I marry Hachikuji, of course!

I suppose I'm also bound by the name Koyomi Araragi.

Fool.

No way. I'd end up being Koyomi Oshino.

Why, if thou art content to deign to wed that slug, take my hand instead.

Why wouldst thou propose to wed a fifth grader upon thy graduation from high school?

I guess it'd still be better than staying Araragi, though.

Japanese Lunisolar Calendar

Calendarium Gregorianum

師走 霜月 神無月 長月 葉月 文月 水無月 皐月 月 生

Is that not a fair complaint?

Come to think of it, I recall getting into a fight with my sisters before.

They blamed the fact that I'm named Koyomi, which means "calendar," for their own names being puns. Like Tsukihi referring to "dates," and I guess Karen's is obvious if you pronounce "calendar" the Japanese way.

I've even heard an urban legend that parents are actually more likely to name their second son "Juan," not their first.

Not sure how true that is, though.

Enough foolishness already.

'Twas not at random, nor am I adopted.

You could even call that abuse of an adopted child.

Thinking about it, I find it hard to forgive Oshino's reckless decision to randomly name you.

I'm far more intrigued by what precisely transpired betwixt thee and thy surname!

Listen, I get it... I feel the exact same way every time someone calls me Araragi!

You have to take the name of the very expert that defeated you. The indignity must be suffocating.

You say that, but you're actually deeply hurt by it, aren't you?

Koyomi Hane-kawa.

A heaven-sent prodigy.

But Koyomi Araragi ? Not even a shred of intel-lect.

Huh... Not bad. That guy sounds really smart.

Hah.

That's someone who's gonna set new world records.

I even get a sense of elegance from that one.

Koyomi Kanbaru.

HUP.

It was unfash-ionable.

For I wished to avoid thy head-patting.

PAT ナデ

Though I endured its wear until today.

I've no need of it now.

Shinobu.

Her decision to live as "Shinobu"...

...wasn't one— without conflict.

...

Hey, no dumping.

Worry not. It was made of my body.

Either the fish will eat it, or it will dissolve into nothing-ness.

PAT ナデ PAT ナデ PAT ナデ PAT ナデ PAT ナデ PAT ナデ

...

But putting that aside ...

Ah! Put me back! Stop! Ah!

TWITCH TWITCH TWITCH

AHM AHM

This'll kill me! I'm gonna die!

A few months from now,

the Naoetsu River will be shaken by the discovery of fish with human faces...

Er, that's actually more worrying to hear...

...the time she spent silently hugging her knees in that abandoned cram school ...

Umm ...

Who else has a name that I could take...?

...may have been ...

...longer and more agonizing than the 500 years she's lived so far.

Really ?

Hast thou not a partner of greater import? One who would offer a swift solution?

Thou hast not truly forgotten, hast thou?

Unlike me, she's proud of her father. It's to the point where she'll meet someone for the first time and introduce herself as "Daughter of Tadanori Senjogahara, Hitagi Senjogahara!"

Koyomi Senjogahara, right?

I haven't forgotten.

I just made it up.

Never before had I heard her father's name till now...

Shinobu Senjoga-hara.

What do you think?

We really are a perfect couple, destined for each other.

She wants to cherish her father's name, while I want to cut ties with mine, that detestable name of Araragi.

Yes, yes. I see.

Don't worry, Shinobu.

When the day comes, I'll change your name as well.

What I'm saying is...

No.

If thou dost yearn to hear my thoughts ...

Have I not already declared my fondness for this name?

AS MY AND SENJO-GAHARA'S DAUGH-TER.

...WE'RE GOING TO TAKE YOU IN. ADOPT YOU.

I thought it was a good idea, if I do say so myself...

...

Shi-nobu ?

...

Hm...

I thought it was a sincere act of kindness, but...

...she needs more than just a name. She needs a place, too.

If she'll continue to live as "Shinobu," ...

...could I have said something that offended her...?

Such is thy nature.

Kah kah.

In that case...

...we are... kin.

'Tis why those around thee...

...think only of thee.

Thou art ever mindful of all save thyself.

I ventured to this land in search of death.

Yet thou bestowed life upon me.

I sought life—for thy sake.

My name may have been stolen, and a name may have confined me—yet...

...I find myself loath to part from this world.

If you care to live for today...

...then so will I.

If you want to die tomorrow...

...I'm ready for my life to end tomorrow...

...have been bound.

For I...

They shackled my very heart.

By a name? Nay.

By thy words in that moment.

...she has grown
tired of living,
tired of killing,
tired of dying...

...cursing life and
craving death,
she must still
be repeating her
suicide.

It happened
500 years ago.
My progenitor
and mentor,
Suicide-Master.

She sought death
thousands upon
thousands of times
but could never
escape from
the yoke
of immortality...
And even now...

In other words,

this...is my punch line.

I shall live *for that time*. For a hundred, two hundred—even a thousand years.

The time when the same befalls thee.

MMMH

MRRNF

MRRNF

MRRNF

And I shall devour thee.

Then I...

...shall perish upon the next sun's rise.

Koyomi Araragi.

All so that I might recount to another the tale of a man with a name worthy of esteem—

BAKEMONOGATARI

KO-YOOO-MI! ♡

ドキッ

ｿｺﾞｰｯ

The epi-logue.

Or may-be...

Um, so... Is there any-thing...

...Karen Araragi's punch line.

A tr-trespasser ?!

Who are you ...?!

YOU KNOW ME! I'M YOUR LITTLE SISTER!

...you'd like me to do?

There's something... you want me to do, isn't there?

As far as little sisters go, I really do tend to please.

I'm in my third year of middle school. There's nothing weird about me wearing something like this.

I hit her.

"This smells like one thing and one thing only. A dirty plot."

If you're curious, the meaning of this punch was: "Out with it. What's your angle here?"

I should preface this by saying that conversations by way of body language are a regular occurrence here in the Araragi household.

GRAK

KRAK

POP

BA-BA-BOOM

SHHK

"Would you please just listen to one of my requests ?"

"Well, I've decided to sell myself from here on out as a little sister who loves her big brother and would never defy him."

くちゅ

SPLATCH

Liver

GRIND

...Kanbaru's something of a leader to girls like her.

...So that's what this is about. Given who she is...

TWITCH

TWITCH

WOULD YOU BE SO KIND AS TO INTRODUCE THIS HUMBLE LITTLE SISTER OF YOURS TO MISS KANBARU?!

KRAK

THONK

I can't just do as she asks. What about my dignity as a big brother?

MY VIRGINITY! I'LL GIVE YOU MY VIRGINITY!

...NO!

IF YOU DO... I'LL LICK YOUR FOOT, STARTING WITH YOUR BIG TOE, AND WORK MY WAY UP WHILE STILL ON MY HANDS AND KNEES!

okko
osha
eichu
aze
Kasumi
Jinchu
Gakon
Murasame
Hichu
Suigetsu
Danchu
Wanjun
Kyokuchi
Shom
Kang
tsu
Uchishakutaku
Kinteki
o

Then again, I can't even utter a word after having all my vital points along the median plane struck.

What exactly am I supposed to say to this unhinged woman?

FNNH

FNNH

...

...Ngh!

WHA

Hey!

Are you planning on sticking that tooth-brush up my ass?!

WHY WOULD I DO THAT?!

Oh, well that's how Tsukihi disciplined some stalker creep who was following her classmates around.

Wh...

What's that?!

HEH HEH HEH HEH

GEH

TWITCH TWITCH

Does she think she's in some sort of post-war girls-only biker gang or something?!

That's just straight-up freaky. I'm scared.

Hm-mm ...?

ふふふ HMP

Just a little challenge, that's all...

I'll introduce you to Kanbaru if you can hold out for five minutes.

Heh.

SHHF

SHHF

SHHF

SHHF

?!

SHHK

SHHK

SHHK

SHHF

SHHF

SHHF

...

Hnnrgh ?!

SHLP キュプ

Mmh!

SHLP キュプ

SHLP キュプ

キュプ

SHLP

キュプ

キュプ

キュプ

ンンン

And there's a world of difference between doing it yourself and having someone do it to you, right?

Wuhht...

Hnnh...

Wuh—

Fine bristles caressing your delicate insides...

I...I never... nye-euh...

SKLURP

SKLURP

SKLURP

SKLURP

I mean, don't girls have backs so ticklish that the sensation is nearly unbearable?

SHHK

SHHK

I hear they call it "touch therapy."

Hya-ah!

Ah!

SHHK

SHHK

It...

I-It doeshn't tickle, it...

Ah!

TWITCH

HHH...

TWITCH

SCHHK

SCHHK

SCHHK

FLAIL

FLAIL

FLAIL

HA HA HA

Is this really okay, Kanbaru?!

You know that I learned this one from you, right?!

Hye-eh!

Not to... some tooth-brush ...

Nuh... Nyoht gonna lose...

Not guhn-na...

...

HOOOH

HOOOH

HOOOH

TWITCH

Something about her does seem a little strange...

Come on, Karen. Say uncle already. You won't have to bear it any longer.

SCHHK

SCHHK

SCHHK

SCHHK

SHBBPT

SHBBPT

SHBBPT

SHUDDER

SHHK

SHHK

SHHK

SHHK

SHHK

Ah!

Mmh!

Ah!

Hyaah ...

Nhoooh ...!

TWITCH

TWI-I-TCH

SHHK

SHHK

SHHK

SHHK

Onh
—

Onnf
...!

TWITCH

TWITCH

Unh!

SHBBPT

CHKK

CHKK

SHBBPT

CHKK

SKRRCH

SKRRCH

SKRRCH

Rnn...
nh...

Ah!

Ahhn!

Ah!

Ah,
ah!

Don't...
look...

...
Koh
...

...
yomi
...

HOOOH
HOOOH
HOOOH

TWITCH
TWITCH
TWITCH
TWITCH

Wh...

What...
just
happened
...?

...Go
ahead
...

...
...!

...do you think you're doing?

What in the hell...

KLINK

WHAAA?! WHY DO I HAVE STARS IN MY EYES WHILE MY BLOOD-RELATED BIG BROTHER IS PINNING ME DOWN ON HIS BED?!

I can't believe it!

HMMM?! HOLD ON, WHY AM I BRUSHING MY BLOOD-RELATED LITTLE SISTER'S TEETH WITH A LOVING LOOK ON MY FACE WHILE PINNING HER DOWN ON MY BED?!

HUUNH?

OH DEAR.

BA-KRAAASH

WAIT, TSUKIHI, HEAR US OU... HYAAGH!

WAI—

Deathly swarm of rotting butterflies!

KLINK KLINK

KLINK

KLINK KLINK

FLAP

FLAP

FLAP

FLAP

KLANG

GSSSHH

KRAK

...but it is true that I want to help him out.

Koyomi and I might always be fighting...

—And so, my punch line.

Naoetsu 03

I'll be the big boss of the Fire Sisters for the rest of my life.

...I'll keep Naoetsu safe once he goes off to visit the world.

And so...

The epilogue. Or maybe...

...Tsukihi Araragi's punch line.

I'm dag-nabbit mad.

...Then again, it's only been five minutes, so that's not really an epilogue.

Mmmh!

WRIGGLE

WRIGGLE

WRIGGLE

TH-THMP

TH-THMP

TWITCH

TWITCH

Mmh!

Aaalll righty, all righty, all righty. ♪

BSSHT

Haiii-yaaah!

As for Tsukihi's punch line—allow me to narrate.

...Actually, it isn't really the kind of story you can summarize neatly.

The ghost story of the "shide no tori"—Tsukihi's true identity—is a little too weighty and too large for even myself.

Especially when Tsukihi doesn't know a single thing about herself to begin with.

So, I imagine there'd be a soccer ball up my ass right around now if she was seriously mad.

Incidentally, that favorite phrase of hers, "dagnabbit mad," apparently originates from the phrase "a bit mad."

CLASSICAL JAPANESE

...

ALL THE PANTIES AND BOOBIES YOU WANNA SEE!

END OF THE CENTURY

HYAH-HAAH!

THE LAWLESS ZONE KNOWN AS LATE-NIGHT TV

NOT EVEN NETFLICKS COULD PULL THAT OFF!

I must say... 'Tis unbelievable that such content was once carried upon the air-waves in days of yore ...

What's that?

Hm?

Hello ...

It's me.

Bah-ba-dada-bah-dah bah-dah-dah ♪

TH-THMP

TH-THMP

TH-THMP

I wanted to...

Umm...

So... Well...

I have plans with Kanbaru that afternoon, but if it's before then...

The public pool?

Two perverted scenes in a row is a bit much...

I DREAD THIS WILL END IN NAUGHT BUT ILL...

BAKEMONOGATARI

Well, of course I did... I told you I'd be here.

You really came, Big Brother Koyomi ...

Yuh- Yuh- Yuh...

Naoetsu Bus Stop

Oh!

The epi- logue. Or maybe ...

...Nadeko Sen- goku's punch line.

IT'S MY LUCKY DAY!

HOORAY!

I'd feel awful if I made them use their valuable time on someone like me...

S-Sure, but...

couldn't you ask Kanbaru or Karen to teach you?

But if you want to learn how to swim,

You know, I can't swim because I want you to teach me how, Big Brother Koyomi.

Born June 3. Gemini. Type B blood. Interests: collecting hats.

Nadeko Sengoku, 14 years old.

Dislikes: Looking people in the eyes.

Naoetsu

Well, I did swim in rivers all the time as a kid.

My little sisters were so afraid of me that they called me Koyomi the Kappa.

You're good at swimming, aren't you?

*Kappa are known to steal *shirikodama* (a hard ball that's something like a soul) from the anuses of their victims.

I WISH YOU'D TAKE MY SOUL OUT FROM MY BUTT!*

I THAT'S SO COOL!

Time to start this mission!

This girl's pretty... unique...

... ... Er ...

Yeah ...

Hup.

TWITCH

TIP

Oh.

The bus shook.

THUNK

ガタ～ッ

Se-Sengoku? Anything new since the last time we met? You know, you were saying you were having trouble with your friends because of everything that was happening...

KOFF

PTT

A suc-cess.

I've closed the gap between us in a totally natural way. Time to wait for an opportunity!

I always look down at the ground and mutter my words when I talk, but...

I don't talk, I don't have many friends, and I'm an antisocial, shy otaku who keeps to myself.

I wonder if Big Brother Koyomi thinks I'm getting bullied in such a classic way?

I don't have the kind of talent and individuality you'd need to be hated.

I'm nobody that important.

Just listen to you.

You just want to be saved, that's all.

That's why you did it.

I'd say that makes you a standout individual—no?

You're adorable, helpless, *hopeless*.

...there's no need for you to carry that burden all on your own. Because I'm here and willing to lend an ear, at least.

Well, you *are* a middle schooler, so I'm sure you have your fair share of worries and troubles. But you know...

Listen, Sengoku.

The character we use for the word "person" is like that because it's two people holding each other up.

It's so cliché that it's hard not to burst out laughing.

He's started lecturing like he's a school principal or something.

...“Who would say something like that in this day and age? What are you, a school principal?!”

—Is the kind of thing some people would hear and then be all like...

...but in reality, one is having a way easier time than the other!"

"No way, it only looks like two people holding each other up...

Some would even say,

I'M CERTAIN ANYONE WHO'D SAY THAT IS THE KIND OF PERSON WHO DOESN'T READ NOVELS!

BECAUSE THE CHARAC-TER'S RENDERED WITH PERFECT VERTICAL SYMMETRY IN PRINT!

NOW THAT'S ONE SAD INTERPRE-TATION!

And wait, what were we discussing ?

...That was an unex-pected turn...

...Okay, fine. Strictly speaking, the left side is a little thinner, but still...

Naoetsu Public Pool

2!!

Not a failure by any means!

It's painful to loo... er, I think it looks... great on you.

WHISPER

WHISPER

WHISPER

What do you think of the swimsuit?

THAT MAKES ME HAPPY.

Great!

U-Uhhh... Well... I-I'm amazed they sell a swimsuit like that all the way out here in the sticks...

...that young pinup girls get tricked into reluctantly wearing while asking, "Did my agency really okay this swimsuit?!"

O-Okay...

Let's get straight to...

To be honest, I was worried this might be the kind of swimsuit...

5

6

?!

Hmm ?

Seems like Big Brother Koyomi— didn't know either.

THONK

シー…

RUMBLE RUMBLE

SPLOOSH

Appar-ently...

...vampires can't swim.

I suggest you keep your eyes on her for a good while... I think I've told you this before, but *you pulled a bad opponent.*

Nadeko... was it?

Ha haa— you really are one popular guy, Araragi.

...are scary.

Snakes ...

...

Sorry, Sengoku.

This sure was one big waste of time.

Nuh-uh.

...

Thank her?

Like I said on the phone...

...I have plans with Kanbaru after this.

Want to tag along? You haven't had a chance to properly thank her yet, have you?

Yeah.

I'd love to tag along.

Thank her for what?

All that person did...

...was make me pose in perverted positions while wearing a school swimsuit.

APA HOTEL

Oh, and you know what else?

I saw Big Brother Koyomi's girlfriend the other day.

I'd heard she was famous around here—a beautiful girl with model-like looks...

Just right for Big Brother Koyomi.

She just...

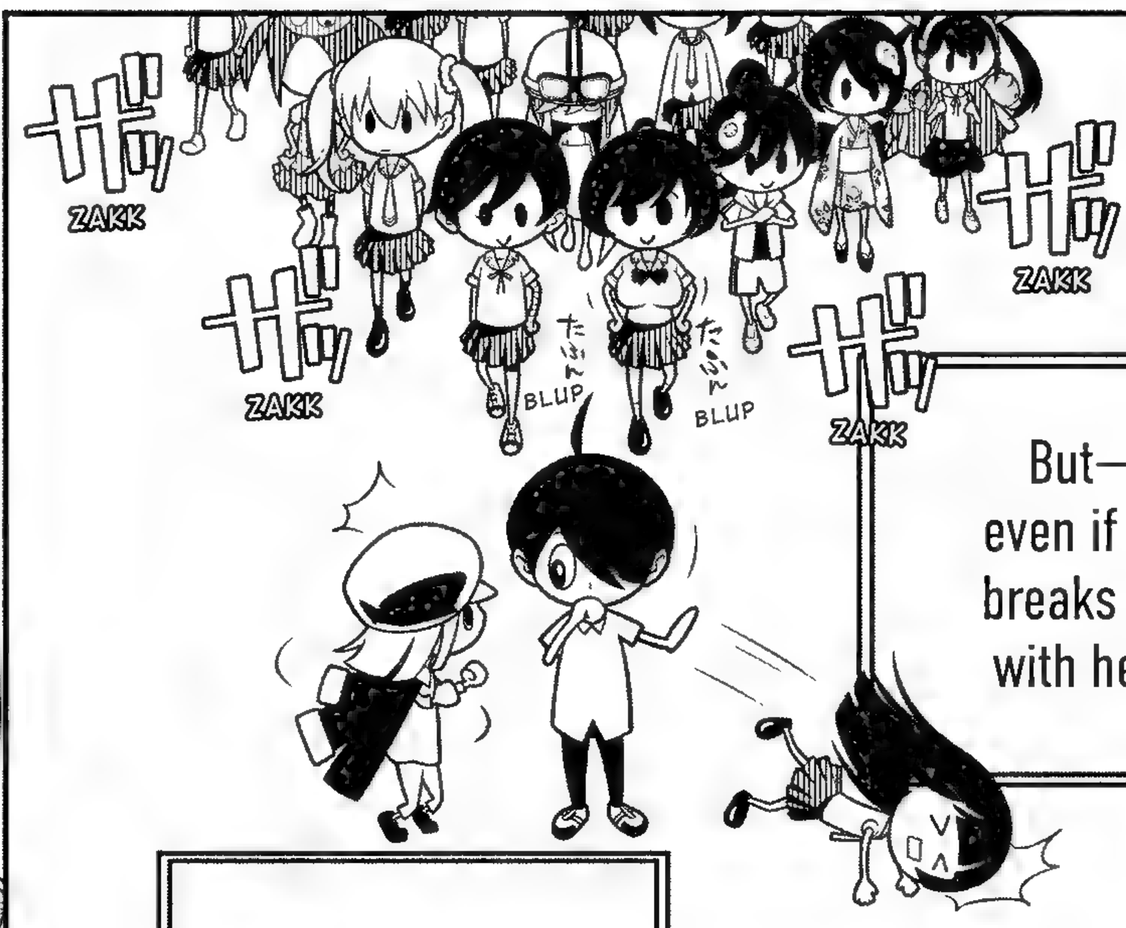
...seemed so cool.

What a pain ...

Getting my heart broken every time would be so tiring. Poor me.

...that's why...

And so...

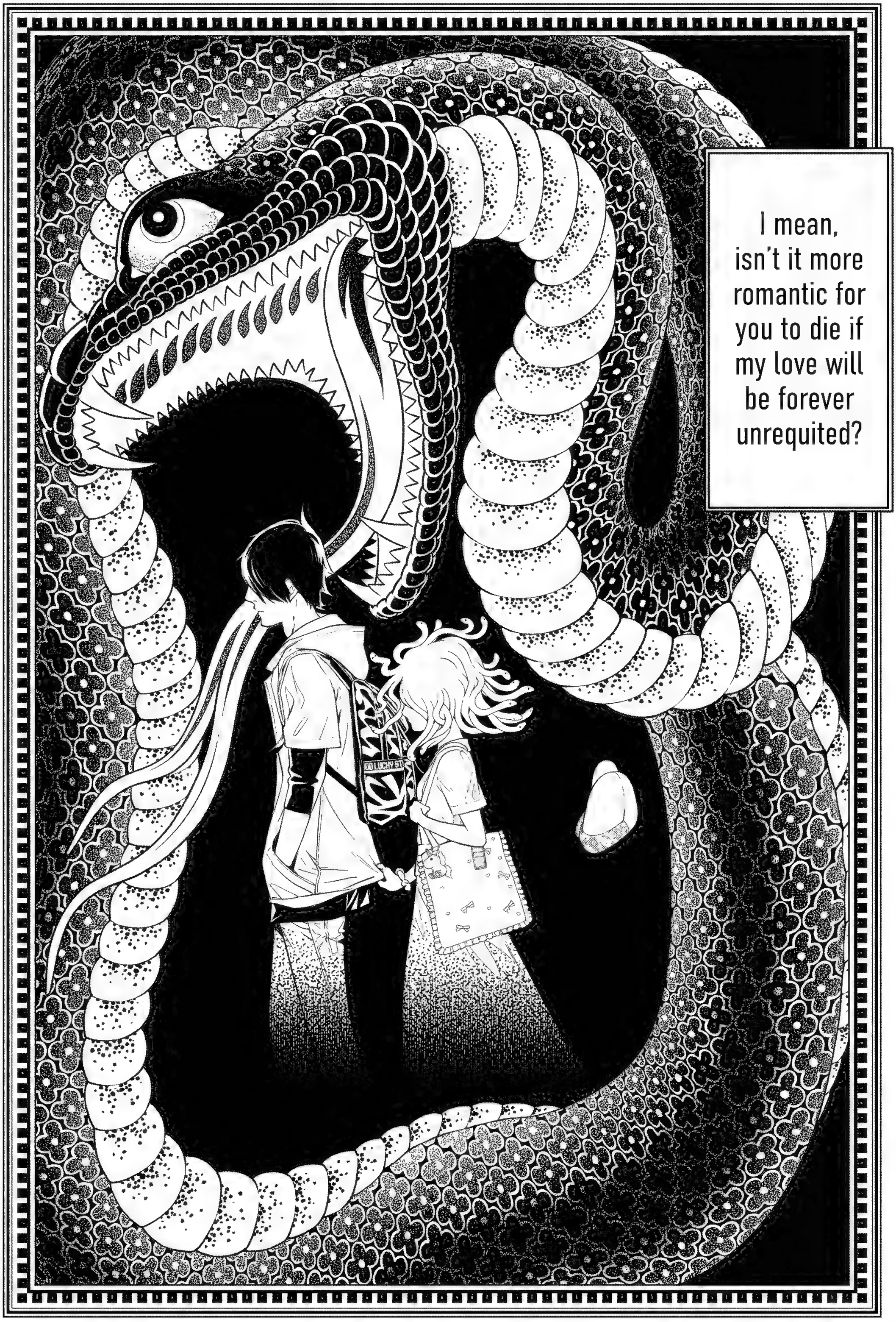


But— even if he breaks up with her.

There'll be one girl after the next going after him, right?

...I'm going to kill you.

Okay, big brother Koyomi ?


I mean, isn't it more romantic for you to die if my love will be forever unrequited?

In other words ...

...this is my punch line.

Mmh.

That's right.

It's hopeless.

Hm?

So I guess you're already...

...that far gone?

"Mister Serpent" here possessed me then...

...and things went a little crazy.

—Yeah, telling yourself that would make it easier on you, huh.

Hmmm?

...when should I kill you?

So...

Big brother Koyomi.

You've been given a stay of *eggs-a-cution* when it comes to my mission—okay?

Ah!!!!

What happened to your hat?

Getting seen without my hat is even more embarrassing than being seen completely naked!

Oh no, oh no!

WUH-WUH...

BAKEMONOGATARI

GA-
KLANG

Or maybe The epi-logue.

...the day where I finally settle things and reach the punch line with Suruga Kanbaru had arrived.

GA-
KLANK

...I'm here to teach you a lesson before it's too late!

As your senior ...

Her attitude has been getting out of hand lately. It's way past the point where I can just ignore it.

3-1 ARARAGI

So, what kind of date are we going on today?

I did happen to bring my personal basketball with me today.

SLAM

YOU COULD AT LEAST READ THE FIRST LINE OF THE LETTER I SENT YOU!

ZSST

A duel.

Last week ...

...I spent most of my Saturday writing an epic that I sent to Kanbaru.

Setting myself aside ...

...the situation seemed to have become a grave one, given the fact that she was even causing trouble for Senjogahara.

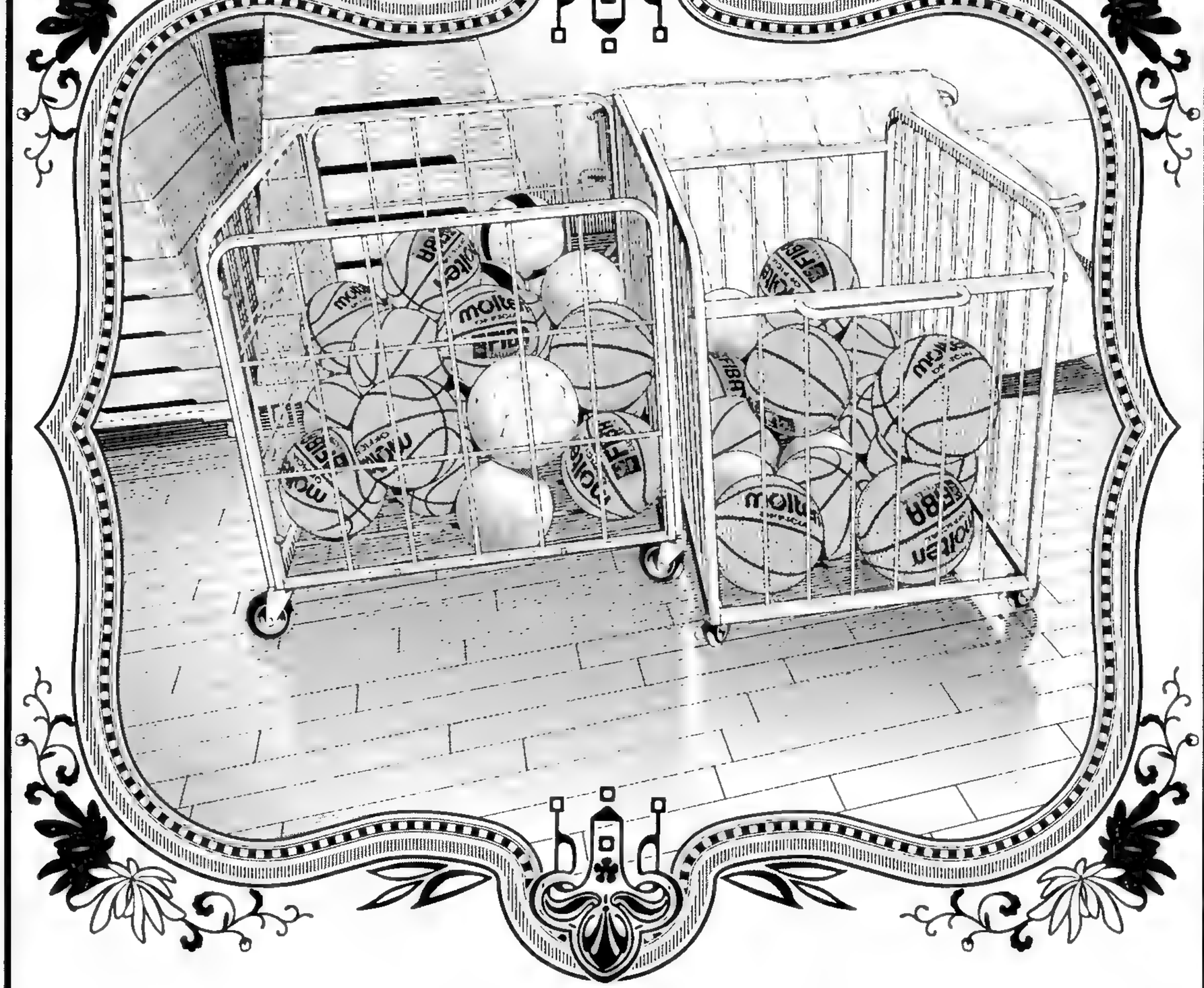
Letter of Challenge

SKRRK
SKRRK
SKRRK
SKRRK
3-1
ARARAGI
HOKU
DOKK
BA-BAM
BOOM

The Monkey's Paw

...but it's no coincidence that a devil's hand, instead of a monkey's paw, ended up in her family's storehouse.

There's a massive secret involving Kanbaru's birth—well, maybe not massive...



...she's now nothing more than the former star of the basketball team, having been forced off the court by that false monkey's paw.

That said ...

You're every bit as impressive as I expected you to be, my senior Araragi.

It's not easy to put up this much of a fight against me.

Hff!

Haah!

Huff

...If you really believe that, then go easy on me...

ARARAG

THD

SKRRK

But it's been so long since I got to play basketball seriously.

Ah!

That girl—she seems down lately.

She's been away from basketball for a while now...

But you know how she's always trying to act so brave when she's around us, right?

Go easy?

Are you kidding?

Thank you.

woo! kanbaru!! | Araragi

122 100

DID YOU JUST SAY SOMETHING UNSETTLING ?!

—So anyway, this is my punch line.

I'm so fortunate to have both of them as lovers at the same time.

TONK

!!

It's short for, "people I love."

SHWIP

...And your left hand just accompanies the ball?

Is that how it goes?

CAN WE JOIN, TOO? ♡

HOLD ON A SECOND! YOU KNOW I CAN'T IGNORE WHAT YOU JUST SAID, RIGHT?!

YOU'RE BEING BULLIED? YOU?!

There's no bullying going on here at our school.

What are you talking about, Araragi?

Understood, my mast— Miss Hanekawa.

Miss Senjogahara, you team up with Miss Kanbaru.

The last time I played basketball was during middle school P.E. class.

No?

Do you have experience playing, my senior Hanekawa? A shot like that's challenging even for me.

Wow, I worked up a nice sweat!

Haah!

Haah!

Ghaak!

Huff!

Damn it!

I'm gon-na die ...

Haaah!

Haah!

woo! Kanbaru!!

Ara

5

One hour later

5

Kanbaru! If you wish to challenge Miss Hanekawa, you'll need to defeat me first!

That's why I let Araragi do the hard work before coming in to have all the fun.

I know.

SERI-OUSLY, WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN YOU TWO?!

I just finished running around for two hours in a match against my senior Araragi.

H-Hold on. I want a rematch sometime in the future!

I guess ...

...it's about time to leave.

Okay, then...

We all gathered here today for a reason, after all.

Holy cow!

...You're right.

...aru!!

?

You haven't properly given your thanks either, have you, Sengoku?

To *him*.

KEEP OUT

Kan-ba-ruuu?

How's it looking over there?

NO

SAFE

TRESP

KEEP OUT

SAFETY FIRST

I haven't been back here for a while.

Not since the matter involving that "cat."

Sen-jo-gaha-ra.

You find Oshino?

How do I put it... I guess I must have had a feeling about what I'd find.

This place should have been bigger. Complicated, like a maze, and even larger than Naoetsu High's school building... and yet...

Look, the next building over is so close... That's a different lot, right?

but I don't even remember this building.

Seeing Mister Oshino is one thing,

Is this really the place, Araragi?

Almost like— the cram school we knew existed in a different world.

Hanekawa... once said the same thing.

And the girl next to you. Umm...

O-Oh... Well, if it isn't you, Araragi.

I think *that* was...

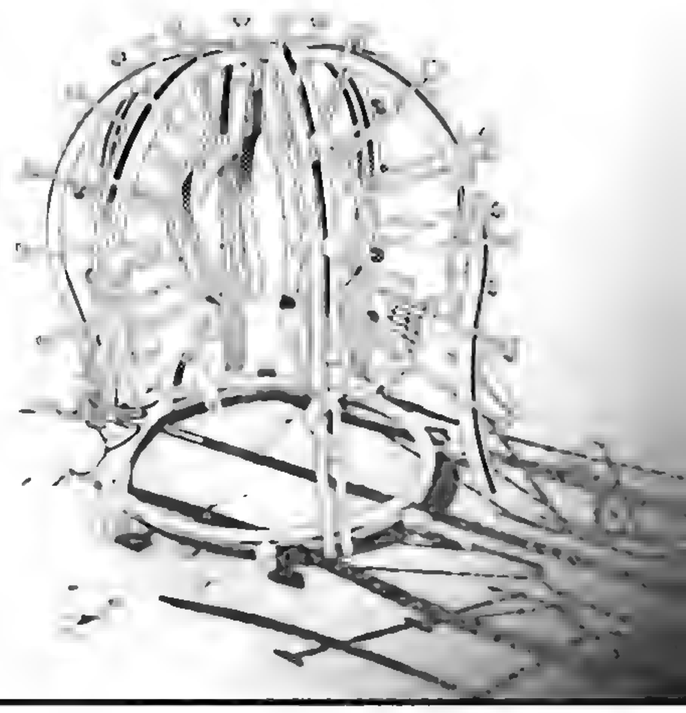
What're you doing, Oshino?

Hm?

Now that I think about it... Oshino was acting rather strangely back then.

I feel like—
he must
have been
undoing
that sort
of thing.

...a kind of seal
on this place—
or maybe you'd
call it a spell.



...leave
this
town.

So he
could...

...

...a single trace behind.

Without leaving ...

...the person known as "Mèmè Oshino" never even existed.

As if from the very start...

it all could have been a dream.

Almost as if—

...that took place starting with spring break...

Almost as if every-thing...

Ding, ding, ding! ♪

KEEP OUT

Exactly. It *was* all a dream, my dear senior.

Huh?

So here begins ...

...the epi-logue.

Or maybe ...

Oh, please.

None of this is new to you.

Hm?

Wha...

Wh...

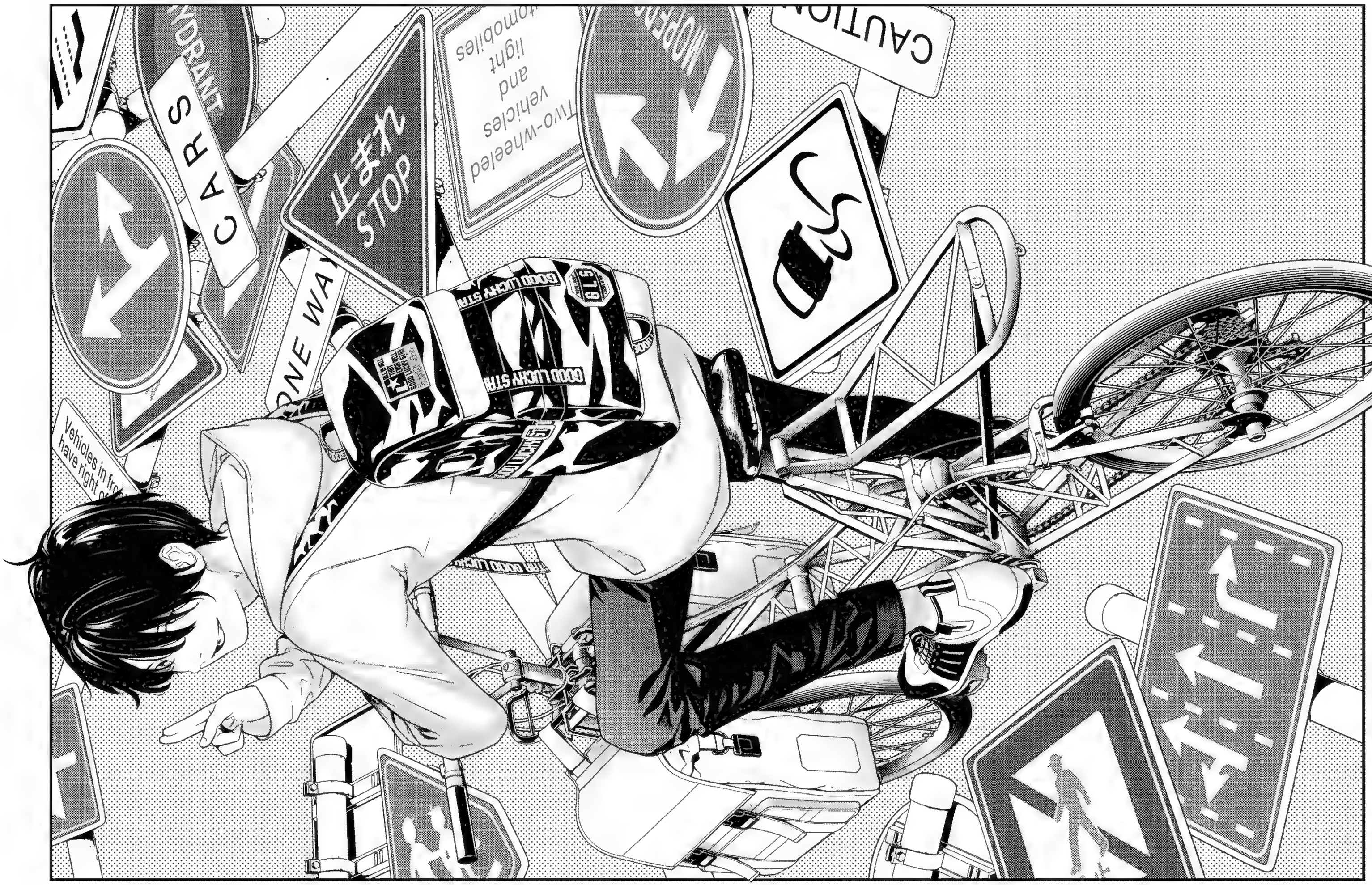
Where'd that come from...?

Who?

...punch line.

...Koyomi Araragi's...

The time has come for our pedo to wake from his creepy dream.



BAKEMONOGATARI

Since this is the template, I'll repeat it.

The epilogue.

Oh, please. What are you talking about?

Wh...Who exactly are you?

Or maybe ...

...Koyomi Araragi's...

...punch line.

I don't know a thing.

You're the one who knows, Araragi.

Congratulations.

Congratulations.

HOLD ON, IT WAS SUPER POPULAR ALREADY! AND I'VE NEVER HEARD OF ANYONE ELSE WITH THAT OPINION!

AND WHAT'RE YOU EVEN TALKING ABOUT?!

I'm of the opinion that the TV version of *Evangelion* became popular thanks to the sudden you-know-what near the final episode.

By the way.

But this is pushing it, Ogi—

Listen, I can accept a lot, considering all the surreal twists and turns that have happened ever since spring break.

And... I have for a while, if anything...

I...know this girl...

That's right...

Wait...

What?

!

You're ...

Ogi...

That's ... right.

...aren't you?

...Ogi Oshino...

You're Mèmè Oshi-no's— niece, right?

What're you talking about? Of course it is.

Thank you very much.

So my name is Ogi Oshino, is it?

It's strange... How could I forget something so obvious?

It was almost as if— I couldn't recall my own name...

I guess Ogi was also here to see Oshino.

That's right...

It makes sense for her to be in this abandoned building if she's his niece...

A-ha-ha.

Calling me a pedo or whatever...

Still, you're just as nasty as ever, huh.

But isn't that what you are? Antisocial, friendless, like a *decorative object* found inside a classroom— *that's who you are.*

Spring break— when you encountered a dying vampire... That's where it starts, right?

Let's see... How does it go again?

KLONK

...all those things actually happened ?

Araragi, do you really believe ...

Y-Y-You don't know a thing... about my ties to them...

That'd be...

Th-Th-This couldn't possibly end as one big dream, not after coming this far...

MUTTER MUTTER MUTTER
モゴ モゴ モゴ

You're very shaken, I see.

SEN-JO-GA-HA-RA-AA!

HEEEY! HANE-KAWA!

KAN-BARUUU! COME OOOUT!

WAIT, NO, IT CAN'T BE... HA HAA!

One hour later

ABSURDITY

HAAH!

HAAH!

HAAH!

HAAH!

I-I'm sure... they came with me...

Wh-Why...?

No-body's... here...

This is the kind of last resort manga authors go to when they don't know how to wrap things up, huh.

Well...I thought Kanbaru might be hiding in here...

—Hey, are you listening?

I'm here to question this pitiful senior of mine.

But don't worry.

Straighten Out

What I'm here to refute—

is the way you live your life.

...then there's—no better life than that.

That's not what I'm here to refute.

If it's possible for you to live in a fanciful reverie as you chase your dreams...

My cure may be worse than the disease.

This isn't going to be easy for you.

A con artist will play you for a fool.

A girl who knows everything is going to threaten your life and use you as her tool.

A violent aberration specialist is going to nearly kill your little sister.

A thousand snakes will nearly take your life...

Thanks to you, my schedule's packed, too.

Huh?

That's dange-ro—

Hey!

KLONK

I plan to *somehow work things out* before you graduate, though.

KLONK

Hey!

…

All these attention-seekers who want nothing more than to build a staircase toward their own death and climb it...

KLONK

Just one after another, coming out of the woodwork. I'm sick and tired of it.

KLONK

They've led you astray—

Just like this...

There's been no end to these voices that torment and lure you in.

They just want people around them to notice and care. They want to cling onto that—

Creating problems for themselves, flying false flags—it's all so stupid.

AH! I'M GONNA DIE, I'M GONNA DIE!♡

PLEEEASE, SAVE MEEE! ♡♡♡

OGI ...!

Do be careful.

Adolescence is such a perilous thing.

SNATCH

SHHK

You've saved countless people so far.

In other words, you've sacrificed yourself. Denied yourself.

You've carelessly tossed your own life away as if it were mere trash, all for the sake of saving others.

Let's have a contest.

I'm going to begin an investigation.

When you beg for your life, that's when I win.

OGI!

BUT YOU'RE MAKING EVEN LESS SENSE THAN THAT!

I'D SAY YOU'RE NOT MAKING ANY SENSE AT ALL...

GRRCH

GRRT

GRRCH

GNNH!

GRRCH

But—it's different now.

Maybe I have treated my own life carelessly.

You know—maybe you're right.

SLUMP

...is no different than suicide for me.

Closing my eyes, plugging my ears, and swiftly passing them by...

When someone wants help.

...When someone's in trouble.

That's where Koyomi Araragi... would die.

I wouldn't be Koyomi Araragi anymore.

If I want to live as myself...

They all saved— me.

Sen-jo-ga-hara.

Hane-kawa... Shino-bu—

...then there's no way I'd be the only one—who doesn't save myself, right?

HUH? SOMETHING ABOUT A MEAL TICKET?

Ha haa.

I bet you'd wrap this up with a neat little line.

You know, I bet he'd—

I'm having trouble putting this into words.

Ahh.

I haven't saved anyone.

You all just went and saved yourselves on your own.

You really are such a fool...

Koyo-mi.

I...

Why have you appeared now...?

...Who exactly are you, Ogi...?

...am an almanac.

Your almanac.

雪 *yuki*

花 *hana*

月 *tsuki*

物 *mono*

語 *gatari*

KOYOMIalmanac

22

BAKEMONOGATARI 22

化 *bake*

BAKEMONOGATARI 22

...is a day-by-day listing of information.

Apparently, an almanac...

and exists as its own system-atized publication.

...adds predictions, prophecies, horoscopes, and more to it,

In other words, it takes a calen-dar...

...I'm— your tale.

In other words...

...I will be like your ephemeris, observing from afar,

as if to record every-thing about you, even the parts you don't know.

Just as you will continue to etch out Koyomi's life...

...you're saying you were born to protect me—

that you were born to save me...

It's almost like...

You could say I'm a walking lump of self-criticism.

I was born to refute you.

No. Don't you remember what I said?

...how could a dream like this last for long at all?

After all...

I'm sure... I'd wake up and stretch myself out, saying, "I had the most wonderful dream"—and be able to spend the rest of my day basking in joy.

If every-thing that's happened since spring break really was just a dream—

If...it's really true.

What a response. Like something out of a dream.

Until next time.

Well.

KRASH

DAZO-IN

WH...

—AT ARE YOU DOING, ARARAGI?!

AFTER ALL— YOU'LL STILL BE IN PAIN IF YOU GET HURT, RIGHT?!

That's not the issue here!

L-Let go, all of you! I'm fine... I won't die even if I fall!

I won't let anyone hurt my man, not even the ground.

MAST... ER, MISS HANE-KAWA!

Hon-estly.

OR PUT YOUR FACE IN BETWEEN MY CHEEKS.

Can I just let go?

Sexual harassers, the two of you.

PLEASE, PUSH THOSE SUPPLE BREASTS AGAINST MY BUTT!

NOT THERE! HIGHER ...!

SHOOO

Everyone means everyone.

What do you mean by "every-one"?

What...?

Or else everyone's going to die.

If you ever feel like killing yourself, you'd better do it after killing me.

I ask that you not underestimate Hitagi Senjogahara when she lashes out.

I'm going to kill them.

I'm not dying without a fight now.

Okay?

So... don't worry, Ogi.

No, she'd do it.

...I really think she would...

She's of formidable spirit. *Thou shalt find thyself in endless combat with her through thy days, be it 100 or 1,000 years.*

Mayhaps, 'tis a sort of vampiric side effect.

She—is an aberration wrought of the same basic principles as Miss Basa's cat and tiger.

So, in other words—she's always going to be my greatest enemy.

I see...

...

You could at least let me say good-bye...

For a bit longer after that— we kept searching for Mèmè Oshino.

But this abandoned cram school, by no means large... provided not a single hint.

Yeah, it really is.

Well, you know what they say about him.

It really is true.

One is rare enough. To think that two of a kind would find one another.

Yeah. Just like a certain someone.

What is?

It's so him.

Hm?

?!

You're such a nice guy.

I have a feeling ...

Instead, he *taught* us.

...that Mèmè Oshino didn't save any of us.

KEEP OUT

SCURRY

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

Whenever he saved us,

it was just a temporary fix.

But what he taught us will help us for the rest of our lives.

It'll continue to save us.

...the day came at last.

The cultural festival.

And then ...

Ceiling: House of the Dead

Guillotine

Deceased On

EXIT

Cycle

OF FEAR

Come one, Come all

Enter, if you dare

Large Kanji: Haunted House

...a haunted house.

AVAILABLE

HEART SUTRAS

This way

Special Effects

HITOBAN

Flying Heads

Our class decided to put on...

EEEE

EEK

?!

Hm...?
I feel like this reaction isn't quite fear...?

Y-YOU'RE SO CLOSE, ARARAGI ...!

AHHH

OH NO, OH NO!

Oh no...!

WHAT DO WE DO? THIS IS A HUNDRED TIMES WORSE THAN I HEARD...!

AHHHH!

AHHHHHH

AHHHHHH

SWARM

SWARM

SWARM

SWARM

?

?!

THAT LOOKS SO GOOD ON YOU!

AHHH

...

?

?

OH MY GAHD! THAT SCAR ON YOUR NECK LOOKS SO REAL!

COUNT! PLEASE, BITE MEEE!

GLARE

The Bizarre Crab Woman from Space

She's here!

EEK!

HYAAAGH

We're sorry!

SCATTER

Sounds good.

Seems like Franken's shift is just about to start anyway.

Why don't we go by the other classes for a bit and get lunch?

...if I were in her shoes, I wouldn't be able to keep my emotions together for even a second in this situation...

I bet I'd create some kind of weird aberration...

The Bizarre Cat-girl

It's not like I'm one to talk since I got rejected, but...

Wow... I wonder if it'll always be like this from now on.

Huh.

I hear 2-5's sandwiches are super tasty.

MUTTER

MUTTER

MUTTER

3-1 FAIR

FRANK-FURTERS

WOBBLE

WOBBLE

INTRO QU

3-1-2 Exhibit this way

MUTTER

MUTTER

MUTTER

MUTTER

I'll figure out a way to take Count Dracula's appearances off the schedule...

Maybe I'll ask the wolfman to do a little extra work.

Oh, and don't worry. I'll be sure to hold onto some sandwiches.

Now get out there.

2-3 MANLY ARM WRESTLING
2-4 FESTIVAL
SHOW
2-4 DRIVE-IN
HAUNTED HOUSE
CHEM CLUB'S CHEMICAL HYAKUNIN-ISSHU
Come to
PING-PONG CAFÉ
In other words, this is my...
... punch line.

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Designed by VEIA

No.

I do change.

Once upon a time, in a certain land,

there was said to be an odd fellow named Koyomi Araragi.

Do you need... something from me?

Do...

SKRRK

All's well that ends well.

And it seems he still exists to this day.

...I'm always going to be me.

But however much I may change...

I was thinking...

...maybe, just maybe, I could be of help to you...

BAKEMONOGATARI

The End

AFTERWORD

When I'm given the chance to novelize a manga I love, my goal is to make it a special novel. In other words, rather than aiming for a reaction like, "Of course this is how you'd novelize a manga that good," I want the reaction to be, "Wow, this manga was novelized in such an intriguing way!" I'm never really certain if I've achieved this goal, but the same thought occurs to me when my own work is adapted into manga, especially when that work is my magnum opus. As you readers are aware, the *Bakemonogatari* drawn by Oh!great-sensei, and by extension the manga adaptation of the *Monogatari* series, has undeniably become something special, even standing out among special works. I feel like from now on, I'll need to work hard to keep writing novels that make people say, "Ah, so this is the approach the original work this manga's based on takes!" Thank you very much!

NISIOISIN

How can I make a manga adaptation that everyone will enjoy? Reflecting on the start of this series, I might have been under-prepared for that question. While working on the Nadeko Snake arc and trying one experiment after the next, I was hospitalized with pneumonia and had to take a month off. I now realize that so many odd occurrences were happening in my life prior to my hospitalization. I've heard this kind of thing often happens when dealing with aberrations, but I never really believed all that, and I still think it was all just a coincidence…

The time I spent hospitalized gave me some "prep time" that turned out to be quite valuable to me. Lying in my bed, it occurred to me that perhaps staying faithful to the original isn't how you avoid betraying the fans, but rather, it's by giving everything you have. At the very least, I feel that without that period, I wouldn't have been able to continue the series for five years. While I'm unsure if I met your expectations, I did do everything in my power.

My deepest thanks to the editorial department for giving me this valuable opportunity, to my staff and family who supported me, and to NISIOISIN-sensei for entrusting me with a work so precious that he calls it "more than just my double, it is my very self." I am immensely grateful to you all.

Oh!great

BAKEMONOGATARI (manga) 22

Kodansha Digital Edition

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